SIA

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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TELEGRAPH BRANCH
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OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESSAGE SECTION

172

Control: 1203
Rec'd: June 2, 1950
10:31 p.m.

FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 869, June 2, 2 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 869, REPEATED INFO PARIS 172, LONDON 192.

The tedious Belgian pre-electoral campaign at its close prior to the June 4 Parliamentary and provincial elections is marked by calm and general fatigue. The exhausted state of party treasuries plus the fatigue of a public which has been exposed for months to a monotonous barrage of warmed-over arguments and hackneyed campaign invective have largely contributed to prevailing apathy.

Many observers wisely decline to forecast result of Sunday vote referring to the Gallup Poll fiasco in the US elections of 1948 as an example of the unwisdom of guessing. Some who are willing to hazard an estimate indicate that the Social Christian Party will retain and possibly improve its present majority in the Senate and gain a majority of from one to two up to ten seats in the Chamber. Consensus seems to be that the Liberal Party may lose an appreciable number of seats, the Socialists may retain or slightly increase their present strength and the Communists who now have only twelve seats in the Chamber may lose some of those.

Except for the royal question, on which the PSC has attacked both Socialists and Liberals, the PSC has concentrated its heavy campaign fire on the Liberal Party.

Spaak's tactics during the past few days has been to soft-pedal the Socialist attacks against the Catholic Church for latter's alleged intervention in politics. Recent Pastoral letter signed by Cardinal and bishops drew heavy fire from left.

Spaak is adopting line that only solution for Belgium as well as western Europe is a formula of cooperation between Christian and Socialist elements. I am told he will make that the central idea of a speech he is planning for Paris June 8 under the auspices of the World Brother Organization. I gather that Spaak believes PSC will emerge after Sunday with majorities in both Belgian Chambers.

MURPHY

TT:HL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
TELEGRAPH BRANCH

6/7/50, 4 a.m.
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12-B
Action
EUR

Control: 1203
Rec'd: June 2, 1950
10:31 p.m.

FROM: Brussels

Info
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DCR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 869, June 2, 2 p.m.

SENT DEPARTMENT 869, REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 172, LONDON 192, LUXEMBOURG 8, THE HAGUE 7.

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MURPHY

DM:CEI

755.00/6-250

755.00/6-250

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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54 (OVER)

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

MESSAGE

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Control: 2619

Rec'd: June 6, 1950 11:41 p.m.

FROM: Brussels

1950 JUN 7 AM 10 17

TO: Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NO: 394, June 6, 5 p.m.

Eyskens Government voted to resign this morning. Eyskens submitting resignation to regent this afternoon.

Official election figures not yet released. After disputes about counting in Mons, Antwerp and Bruges, figures are being rechecked. Government's latest unofficial figures for Chamber seats compares to 1949:

PSC 108 (plus 3); Socialists 77 (plus 11); Liberals 20 (minus 9); Communists 7 (minus 5).

Senate, compared to 1949 (directly-elected Senators only):

PSC 54 (0); Socialists 37 (plus 4); Liberals 12 (minus 2); Communists 3 (minus 2).

Thus PSC has gained 4 vote majority Chamber and will almost certainly retain majority Senate. PSC National Committee announced June 5 they would attempt form one-party government. Last one-party government formed 1914.

Total vote for Kingdom is 5,038,457 which is 198,283 less than popular consultation March 12, 1950. Since voting required in Belgium, this reflects some apathy.

Party vote:

	Vote	Percent of Total	Gain or Loss	Percent of Total Gained or Lost
PSC	2,354,965	47.7	+164,302	+4.2
Socialists	1,704,660	34.5	+208,194	+4.8
Liberals	557,019	11.3	-210,118	-3.9
Communists	234,325	4.7	-142,418	-2.8

PSC gained

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8-3

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6/8/50, 2:30 p.m.
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Action
EUR

-2-#894, June 6, 5 p.m., from Brussels. Control 2619

Info
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PSC gained 4 seats Flanders, 1 seat Brussels and lost 2 Walloon area. Socialists gained 1 seat Flanders, 3 Brussels, and 7 Walloon area.

Confirms trend reflected popular consultation Socialists gain Walloon area; PSC gain Flanders.

Socialists with 77 Chamber seats have far more than recouped their slight 1949 losses. After 1949 elections they had 66 seats; in 1946 they received 69 seats.

Socialist-Liberal cartel in Limbourg and Luxembourg worked. Socialists gained 3 Chamber seats over 1949 and Liberals, 2 in Senate.

Liberal president of 1949 Senate, Gillon, not re-elected. Likewise Liberal pro-Leopold deputy Sabbe.

MURPHY

JAK:CEI

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESSAGE SECTION

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#894, June 6, 5 p.m., from Brussels

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MURPHY

JAK:GEI

WORD NOT CORRECTED ON ORIGINAL RELEASED

FW 756.00/6-652